

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

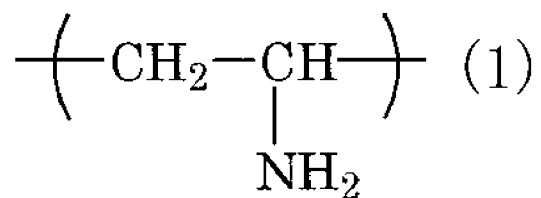
1. (Previously presented) A pretreatment method for subsequent coating comprising pretreating a surface with a chemical conversion coating agent to form a chemical conversion coat,

wherein the chemical conversion coating agent comprises fluorine and at least one member selected from the group consisting of zirconium, titanium and hafnium,

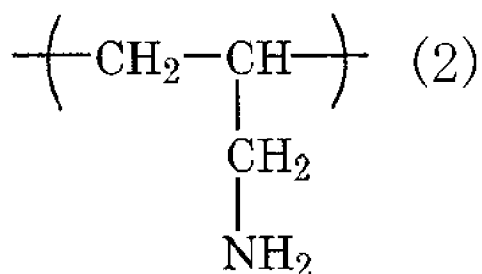
the chemical conversion coat has a fluorine concentration of 10% or less on an atom ratio basis of the chemical conversion coat, and

at least a part of the surface is an iron material; and

wherein the chemical conversion coating agent further contains an amino group-containing-silane coupling agent; and further contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of a water-borne resin containing an isocyanate group or a melamine group or both (i) and a water-soluble resin having a constituent unit expressed by the chemical formula (1):



or the chemical formula (2):



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or both in at least a part thereof (iii); and wherein said chemical conversion coating agent substantially contains no phosphate ions.

2-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) The pretreatment method for coating according to Claim 1, wherein the chemical conversion coating agent contains 20 to 10000 ppm of at least one member selected from the group consisting of zirconium, titanium and hafnium and has a pH of 1.5 to 6.5.

7-20 (Cancelled)

21. (New) The pretreatment method for coating according to Claim 1, which further comprises post rinsing after the pretreating.

22. (New) The pretreatment method for coating according to Claim 6, which further comprises post rinsing after the pretreating.

23. (New) The pretreatment method for coating according to Claim 1, wherein said subsequent coating is a cationic electrocoating.

24. (New) The pretreatment method for coating according to Claim 6, wherein said subsequent coating is a cationic electrocoating.

25. (New) A method for coating a surface which comprises pretreating the surface according to the method of claim 1 and then depositing a cationic electrocoating.

26. (New) The method for coating according to Claim 25, which further comprises post rinsing after the pretreating and before the cationic electrocoating is deposited.